



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

May 5, 1999

### **H.R. 150**

#### **A bill to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to convey National Forest System lands for educational purposes, and for other purposes**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on April 28, 1999*

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 150 would have no significant impact on the federal budget. Because the bill could result in a loss of offsetting receipts, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply; however, CBO estimates that any such effects would total less than \$500,000 each year. H.R. 150 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. This bill would benefit some local governments by giving them the opportunity to acquire National Forest land for public schools at a nominal cost.

H.R. 150 would authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to convey up to 80 acres of land in the National Forest System (NFS) for use by public or publicly funded schools for a nominal payment. Only land not otherwise needed for NFS purposes would be made available, and any such conveyances would not include the transfer of mineral rights. Title to the land would revert to the federal government if the recipient attempts to transfer it or use it for other than educational purposes. The bill would require the Secretary to notify an applicant within 120 days of receiving the application as to whether the land will be conveyed, or provide a written explanation as to why such a determination has not been made.

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 150 would result in forgone offsetting receipts if land that the Secretary would likely sell at fair market value under current law would, under the bill, be conveyed at a discount. However, CBO estimates that any such loss of receipts from land sales would total less than \$500,000 each year. While the opportunity to use NFS land for schools at a nominal cost might be a popular option if H.R. 150 were enacted, such NFS land is rarely sold under current law. Thus, we expect that enacting the bill would not result in any significant loss of federal receipts.

The CBO staff contact is Victoria Heid Hall. This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.